

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C22C49/00 B22F7/06 C22C47/06 E21B10/56

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C22C B22F E21B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, COMPENDEX, INSPEC, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 063 502 A (RAI GHANSHYAM ET AL) 16 May 2000 (2000-05-16) cited in the application column 6, line 55 -column 7, line 58; examples 2,3	1-13
A	MC DONOUGH WJ: "Flaw tolerant, fracture resistant, non-brittle materials produced via conventional powder processing" MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY, vol. 10, no. 7-8, July 1995 (1995-07) - August 1995 (1995-08), pages 131-134, XP009006526 the whole document	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

\*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

\*E\* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date

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\*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

\*P\* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

\*T\* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

\*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

\*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

\*Z\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

27 February 2003

Date of mailing of the International search report

10/03/2003

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 6063502	A	16-05-2000	US 2003008160 A1	09-01-2003
			US 6361873 B1	26-03-2002
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			US 2002020564 A1	21-02-2002
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			AU 3245897 A	05-02-1998
			CA 2212276 A1	01-02-1998
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			SE 9702846 A	02-02-1998
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			ZA 9706883 A	11-02-1998

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